

## TAFT DEFENDS HIS VETOES

## SIX TARIFF BILLS WERE PASSED FOR POLITICAL EFFECT.

Wants Reduction of Duties, but Wants to Wait Till Commission Looks Into the Cuts Protection Can Stand Soon to Be Insurgent Land.

KALAMAZOO, Mich., Sept. 21.—President Taft had the largest audience to-day that he has had on this trip. More than 3,000 people gathered in Battle Creek to hear the President speak.

For the first time since the opening of the Canadian campaign on reciprocity he told his audience that the talk of the annexation of Canada was bosh.

This was the second important address which Mr. Taft delivered to-day. This morning at Grand Rapids he made his formal explanation of his vetoes on the tariff bills.

The meeting at Battle Creek was held in Railroad Park, an almost perfect natural amphitheatre. The crowd before the President covered three acres of ground.

The President told them that he thought that this afternoon he could talk on reciprocity without having his remarks twisted by some newspaper association in an attempt to influence the situation in Canada. Said he:

"I know that some irresponsible newspapers have called me a trickster and a swindler and say I am some way deceived or played unfairly with the Ministers of Canada to secure the treaty. Well, I am not conscious of it and I don't believe that they are. There was not any trick about it, the cards were laid on the table."

"They said we want to annex Canada, huh? Gentlemen, my experience in this government has taught me that we have territory enough without enlarging our borders. Canada is our good neighbor and along that border line of 3,000 miles there is not a gun or fort or a battleship worthy of the name. They have their troubles; we have our own."

"I can say for one that the talk of those outside who say that the trade treaty was to facilitate annexation is bosh."

Then the President, remarking that he was saying that only a fool prophesied, told them that nevertheless he wanted to register a prophecy with regard to reciprocity. "I want to prophesy," said he, "that in eighteen or fifteen months, and that will be before the next general election, the effect of reciprocity, so far as the business of the farmer is concerned, will be so slight that it will form no part at all in the issue in discussion."

The President said that for himself he wished he might have the privilege of tearing down every custom house on the Canadian border and to give the two countries free trade.

The address at Grand Rapids on the tariff vetoes was probably the most important address of this trip from a political point of view, and Mr. Taft could hardly have found more unfortunate circumstances under which to deliver it.

His reception and effect in Michigan to-day, however, are of comparatively little importance. The President planned to give it just as he stepped upon the threshold of the insurgent territory. He enters Kansas on Sunday. He delivers his second set tariff address, that on the tariff board, in St. Louis on Saturday. Thus he is again following closely the policy of his last trip, when he delivered his defence of the Payne-Adair law at Winona, Minn., in the heart of the insurgent country. He will enter Kansas with his ultimatum upon the tariff fresh in the minds of the audiences that he will meet. Judgment of the political effectiveness of the tariff speech to-day will have to wait the President's appearance in Kansas.

A cold drizzly rain had set in before Mr. Taft arrived in Grand Rapids. The local committee had decided to make a sudden shift to a program in order to allow the President to face his audience indoors, but there came a brief halt in the rain and Mr. Taft decided to give the speech outdoors.

He stood on a platform and the crowd, some 3,000 people, packed the square and disappeared in lines of automobiles, carriages and truck wagons. Street car passengers crowded the sidewalks. A dog got in under the platform and howled mournfully. The rain began again and the raising of umbrellas in the densely packed crowd added to the confusion. The President gave instructions not to strain his voice in such weather.

As much of the crowd as could hear the President plainly and follow his argument gave him close attention and applauded vigorously several times. Mr. Taft's speech was in part as follows:

MY FELLOW CITIZENS: I am going to tell you in as simple a way as I can why I vetoed the three tariff bills which Congress submitted to me for signature at the close of this extra session. The first was to secure the enactment in law of the Canadian reciprocity treaty. This was done on July 22. Thereafter the wool bill, the free list bill and the cotton bill were presented to me for signature and I returned them without my approval.

The Payne bill offered an opportunity to me to appoint a board of competent persons to assist me in the administration of the revenue laws.

I meant the movement for a permanent tariff commission to be a step toward the general purposes acquired great momentum. Business associations the country over united to form a special society for the promotion of such legislation, and the campaign for it was carried on with both hands. Congress gave the project the support as possible and made a number of public addresses in support of it and sent a congressional message. The Republican convention of twenty-eight States adopted resolutions strongly advocating a statutory tariff commission and deprecating any future revision until needed evidence had been gathered and impartial conclusions drawn as to the facts upon which such revision could be properly made.

Although many of the Democrats had assisted in the support of the statutory tariff board bill and had advocated such a means of securing accurate information in respect of the probable operation of the proposed revision, the House at once began to consider a second set of political purposes by passing three tariff bills, the wool bill, the free list bill and the cotton bill. They gave no public hearings of any kind on either of these bills and they presented no satisfactory information upon which the effect of any of them upon the industries involved could be judged.

The wool bill proposed a revenue duty of 30 per cent. upon raw wool instead of 45 cents a pound, a reduction of considerable amount and an average duty of 50 per cent. on woolen cloth and manufactures. It was obviously a tariff for revenue and was not drawn for the purpose of protecting the industry.

A majority of the insurgents and the Democrats in the Senate compromised on a bill which made the tax on raw wool, first class, 35 per cent., second class, 10 per cent., and the average duty on woolens 55 per cent. The bill, against the vote of nearly all of the regular Republicans and some Democrats, passed the Senate and the House agreed upon in which the duty was 25 per cent. on raw wool and an average of 45 per cent. on woolens. This bill had the effect of raising the duty on carpet wool

as fixed in the Senate 10 per cent. and as fixed in the House 9 per cent. Here was the first case presented to me. There was nothing in the record of the House or Senate from which I could obtain any information as to the effect of this bill upon the wool and woolen industry of this country. I submit that the history of its making shows no principle whatever in the bill except a compromise between two opposing principles for the purpose of passing the bill without any indication as to its effect on the industry to which it applies.

What was the necessity for such great haste in passing the bill at an extra session called for another purpose? The bill as it passed the House would furnish a strong argument for delaying its passage until after December 1, when the tariff board could report. The date of taking effect was thereupon changed to October 15, 1911. Such care was not taken with the free list bill or the cotton bill, both of which were made to take effect January 1, 1912.

Schedule K had been in force so long and its percentages were so high in many respects that I had not hesitated in times past to say that it ought to be reduced. I explain how it came not to be reduced in the Payne bill as it ought to have been. But it is one thing to know that a schedule of this sort is too high, and it is a very different thing in such a complicated schedule to know upon what items the reductions should be made and how great the reductions ought to be. The House bill was a free trade, or at least an anti-protection bill; what the hybrid was, who could tell? In view of the enormous value of the wool and woolen industry, which might be disastrously affected by the bill, was it asking too much to delay the bill, under the circumstances, for ninety days merely to secure accurate information? I thought not. Indeed, I could find no argument which would satisfy my conscience in signing the bill.

The free list bill was called the "farmers' free list" for the purpose of giving an impression that it was passed to compensate the farmers for some sort of injury supposed to be done by the Canadian reciprocity treaty. This reason was finally repudiated by the leader of the Democracy on the floor of the House of Representatives and is certainly not true. There was nothing in the Canadian reciprocity bill that required any compensation to the farmers, for in a very short period after actual operation it will appear that they, as well as everybody else, have been benefited by our larger trade with Canada. But the bill was framed and came to me in a form calculated to mislead as to its effect. In the first clause all agricultural implements were declared to be free, and a great many were named. These same implements were named in the Payne bill, and were made free in that bill from any country which permitted our agricultural implements to enter it without duty. It does contain some very general words at the close of the specially mentioned articles, which, by interpretation, might be made to include 150 different articles used on the farm, but used in other vocations also. To admit them under this clause would be to destroy entirely the symmetry of the metal schedule and produce a confusion in the tariff schedule which would interfere with the administration of the tariff act.

Another clause provides for the admission of barbed wire fencing free, and then all wire and other material which would be used for fencing, such as wire nails and wire rope. To let in barbed wire fencing alone would be unimportant to producers, but the framing of the amending clause is such that if it were to go into law it would have a serious effect upon the metal schedule.

The bill also puts boots and shoes of all kinds on the free list. It did not put on the free list, except some kinds of leather, the materials which went into shoes. In other words, it put on the free list the finished product, and continued the tax on raw materials.

Finally, the free list has two clauses affecting meat and flour. As they went through the House they put meat on the free list and flour on the free list. In the Senate, however, an amendment was put on limiting the operation of these two clauses to imports from those countries with which we have a reciprocal relation. This limitation made Canada the only country which would be affected by the provisions of the clause. Now, in our negotiations with Canada for reciprocity we attempted to secure free meat and free flour. Canada would not consent to this, because she feared the effect of our competition with her meat and flour. This showed that importations of meat and flour from Canada without duty would not have any effect to lower the price in this country of either in normal times. But this free list bill was giving to Canada something for nothing.

Finally, the cotton bill came to me. This bill differed from the others in being a bill for the Democrats alone, and not the insurgent Republicans. It was introduced by the Ways and Means Committee, made without the taking of any evidence of persons interested in the manufacture or any one else.

The bill was adopted as a free trade bill by the House. It came to the Senate and was passed in the form in which it passed the House, except that certain amendments were added. One was an amendment cutting down the metal schedule by a sweeping reduction of 30 per cent., and the other was an amendment on the chemical schedule with a purported reduction of 25 per cent. So hastily was the bill thrown together, so little attention was paid to the consideration of it in the Senate, especially in the chemical schedule, that the most ludicrous results were reached.

I had the bill examined by experts, especially with respect to the chemical schedule, and even in the very short time I had found the greatest confusion produced by the amendment. The bill was supposed to be a concession to the North Carolina cotton interests and to be intended to encourage the tariff making and collecting materials needed in that business. The very chemical effect of the bill as amended was that instead of reducing the duty on bleaching powder 25 per cent. it increased it to 40 per cent. The bill was impossible to carry out. It was in the next two or four years a revision of feeling, and in the general treatment an indication that the support of the bill was based rather on a desire to make a political record in favor of lower duties than upon a serious proposal to change the law.

I am in favor of the reduction of the tariff wherever it can be done and still give a living measure of protection to those industries of the country that need it. But I insist that we have reached now a point in the history of tariff making when every one ought to realize that the tariff should not be changed and business disturbed except upon information which shall enable us to pass bills that will disturb it least.

Our whole business system rests upon the protective tariff basis. The great number of men who are in favor of lowering duties is to pursue the policy of securing accurate information to keep the tariff rates down as low as possible consistent with the life of the business protected. The natural tendency of the tariff making and the American ingenuity is to continue to reduce the cost of production, and that in itself will secure if we adhere to the policy a reduction of the tariff rates from time to time, but to cut them now with "black-mail" is to invite in the next two or four years a revision of feeling, and then a recurrence of higher rates and the old system of high tariffs. This I would deprecate, and so far as I can with the powers given me by the constitution I propose to stop such a movement and to secure a reduction in accordance with the principle of the Republican platform and on information accurate and impartial. If that

policy is not approved by the electorate then of course those of us who are now in office must give way to men who will carry out a different policy, but while we are in office our position ought clearly to be understood.

The President had a hard day of it. His programme extended from 8 this morning until 10:30 to-night, with scarcely a break. First they took him out to the Kent County Club at Grand Rapids for breakfast. He made them a golf talk there and they made him go out to the home and drive out a couple of balls for them. They had a squad of photographers there to catch the picture. "Just a minute, Mr. President," said one of his hosts as the President was squaring away for a drive, "this stringer wants to get a picture from the front."

"Well I hope," replied the President, "viciously addressing the ball, 'that they won't take one from the rear.'"

The Taft special left Grand Rapids at 1 o'clock for Battle Creek. Mr. Taft spent an hour and a half in Battle Creek and visited the Sanitarium, shaking hands with many of the invalids there, who had been unable to get down to the station to hear his address.

This city gave him a review of school children, an automobile parade and to-night a banquet. He ended his visit to Michigan with an address at the banquet on "Peace." To-morrow the President spends in Peoria, Ill., his only stop in Illinois on his way west.

**FINGY CONNERS RETIRES.**  
Resigns as Member of the Democratic State Committee.

ALBANY, Sept. 21.—William J. Conners of Buffalo has resigned as a member of the Democratic State Committee. John A. Mason, the clerk of the Democratic State Committee, received Mr. Conners' letter of resignation yesterday and made it public to-day. The letter is dated before last Tuesday's primaries, the date being September 15, at Buffalo, and the letter reads:

"I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the Democratic State committee, representing the Forty-eighth Senatorial district, Erie county, same to take effect immediately."

The elimination of Fingy Conners as chairman of the Democratic State Committee, followed by his overthrow as Erie county leader by William H. Fitzpatrick, and the more recent desertion of Mayor Fuhrman of Buffalo from the Democratic ranks, culminated in Mr. Conners' final realization that he was a dead duck in Democratic politics and led to his resignation as a member of the State committee.

It has been related of Mr. Conners that he was a Republican candidate for Alderman in the McKinley campaign in 1896 and that his Democracy dated from that time. He resigned from the Erie county Democratic committee, William J. Conners prints the following this afternoon in his newspaper, the *Enquirer*:

"I resigned for three reasons: first, in order to devote more time to my business interests; second, because I desire to be absolutely free and independent as a Democrat; and third, because I am unable to reply to accusations made by the dominant forces of the present organization to the effect that I have criticized their defiance and violation of the laws of the party owing to personal ambition and personal prejudice. These accusations have been made in spite of the fact that I am not seeking any office or desiring to recommend any person for nomination for local or State office."

William H. Fitzpatrick, the western New York Democratic leader, who won a sweeping victory over the Republicans at the recent primaries, has nothing to say at the news of Conners' resignation. It is known among politicians, however, that Fitzpatrick desired to force Conners out of the party organization and regrets now that his dilatory in response to the advice of his closest friends has permitted Conners to put one over him.

It is not yet known whether Conners intends to bolt the Democratic party ticket, the best that party has named in years, according to statements of reform clubs and the independent element generally. Up to the day of his resignation, however, owing to personal ambition and personal prejudice. These accusations have been made in spite of the fact that I am not seeking any office or desiring to recommend any person for nomination for local or State office."

## TO GET THE INSPIRATION

of these glorious autumn days, drink a glass of

## Evans Ale

WITH YOUR LUNCHEON DINNER OR SUPPER  
Dinner from 12 to 1:30, Supper from 6 to 8.  
Clubs, Cafes, Oyster and Chop Houses.

## CITY CASH FOR COLUMBUS DAY

DR. ABRAHAM KORN OBJECTS TO SPENDING IT.

Is Backed by Borough President Miller, and President McAneny Thinks \$50,000 for Floats Is Extravagant—Comptroller Favors the Expenditure.

When the committee appointed by Mayor Baynor to arrange for New York's first civic celebration of Columbus Day asked the Board of Estimate yesterday for a \$50,000 appropriation Dr. Abraham Korn arose to say it was "about time the city stopped this nonsensical giving away of the taxpayers' money every time a holiday comes along."

Dr. Korn is president of the Harlem Property Owners Association and first vice-president of the United Real Estate Owners Association and he said that in opposing the Columbus Day appropriation he was speaking for both organizations.

"The city is facing a \$200,000,000 budget," said Dr. Korn, "and if you vote the money the Columbus Day committee asks for it will probably mean another bond issue. Of course real estate owners must pay the interest on those bonds and I think they are tired of being taxed to give somebody a good time. There was scandal enough in the celebration of Independence Day, but while the Independence Day observance may have been all right—"

"There wouldn't have been any Independence Day but for Columbus," spoke up Comptroller Prendergast, whereat Dr. Korn remarked that he had done enough for Christopher Columbus by making October 12 a State holiday. The Harlem physician thought that whatever money was needed should be raised by subscription.

"When the Mayor appointed that committee did he intend that the city should make an appropriation?" he asked.

"I can't read the Mayor's mind," replied the Comptroller.

"You generally do."

"I might have an idea what the Mayor intended—"

But there somebody interrupted Mr. Prendergast's confession and when he spoke again it was to say:

"The city has officially recognized the celebration of its first legal holiday in honor of Columbus by the appointment of a committee by the Mayor, and it seems to me proper that the city participate. To do that requires money."

"Then let the big men on the committee give the money," roared Dr. Korn.

The Comptroller thought that if the city did not help the programme would have to be clipped or perhaps abandoned.

"It is a celebration for the people," he said, "and it will include a dinner to which a large part of the public has been invited. The Governor, I believe, has accepted an invitation. But the dinner will pay for itself."

Cyrus C. Miller, president of the Borough of the Bronx, and Lucien Knapp, president of the Knapp Manufacturing Company of 20 Warren street, also opposed granting the appropriation. Mr. Miller said: "I agreed to the appropriation for fireworks for the Fourth, but I was foolish."

President McAneny said he had noted that the committee contemplated expending \$50,000 on floats. He thought that was too much. He was assisted by Francis Smith, secretary of the Board of Estimate, who said that every item would be submitted to a representative of the Board of Estimate before it was paid for.

A committee consisting of Comptroller Prendergast and Borough Presidents McAneny and Miller was asked to consider an appropriation and report to the Board of Estimate on next Thursday. Dr. Korn said he would have a number of taxpayers on hand to support him.

The chairman of the Columbus day celebration committee is George W. Lott. The treasurer is Alfred L. Seligman and the secretary is Magistrate John J. Freschi. The executive secretary, Albert E. Hlman, said yesterday he had never heard of a celebration that had been managed so carefully and so economically. The biggest expense, Mr. Hlman said, will be for floats, and the decorations will be contributed by C. R. Macauley.

The second largest item is \$11,000 to hire bands to accompany the militia and horses for the militia officers. Mr. Seligman hopes to get \$38,000 from individuals to match the \$50,000 which the city has been asked to spend.

## ALL COPS TRANSFERRED.

Whole Force Will Be Shifted on Primary and Registration Days.

All members of the uniformed police force, including sergeants, will be shifted out of their regular precincts on Tuesday, September 26, primary day. This is the first time since Col. Greene's administration that policemen have been transferred on primary day, and never before has such a large shift taken place.

The probabilities are that the same shift will take place on registration and election days, as Commissioner Waldo wishes to see that no police officer is in his precinct on primary day, and that the large number of men needed for the polling places will reduce the patrol force somewhat during the daytime, as the reserves will not be called on except in case of emergency.

Street Cleaners May Get a Raise.

William H. Ashton, who went to Albany with a labor committee to urge that a provision be inserted in the new charter by which the pay of street cleaning drivers and sweepers will be raised to \$3 a day, returned yesterday and said that with the committee he had appeared before the Assembly Cities Committee, the members of which were favorably disposed to this increase.

John R. Walsh, Banker, Expects Early Parole.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Sept. 21. The United States Board of Pardon will take up the case of John R. Walsh, the Chicago banker in prison here, later this week or early next week and it is understood will grant an immediate parole.

The chairman of the board is on the way here from Atlanta. He is expected to-morrow morning.

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## The Seventeenth Century Dining Parlour

An alluring model for the modern Dining Room is the sunny Elizabethan "Dining Parlour" which, with its coffered ceiling, Oak empanelled walls and wide embrasured windows, was used as a Living Room when not needed for the actual serving of meals.

For its pleasing, recourse may advantageously be had to our Reproductions of XVII. Century English Furniture. Among these are such characteristic pieces as the sturdy Refectory Table of hospitable proportions, the Court-Cupboard with its carven panels and turned balusters of glossy dark Oak, or the cane-backed Stuart Chairs of Walnut combining comfort with a spacious dignity.

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New York

## FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

GOV. WOODROW WILSON ADDS TO HIS PROGRAMME.

Tells Jersey City Audience That He Wouldn't Allow Any Man to Be Nominated for President Unless Indorsed by Primaries—Praises Assemblies.

Gov. Woodrow Wilson in giving the people of Hudson county last night an account of his stewardship and in urging them to renominate at next Tuesday's primaries those Democratic Assembliesmen who voted for United States Senator James E. Martine and supported the Governor's programme of reform legislation, came out flatfooted in a speech at St. Patrick's Hall, Bramhall avenue, Jersey City, in favor of the selection of Presidential candidates by direct primary throughout the country.

"If I had my way," he said, "I would let no name come before the national convention except the name ratified at primaries of the people. I'm for anything which will give the people direct control of their own affairs."

This statement was applauded by at least 1,500 persons. Every brand of Democratic candidate from Sheriff down to the most unimportant ward office gathered in the hall to bask in the limelight. State Senator James F. Fielder of Hudson county started the ball rolling by announcing that it was the Governor's meeting, arranged by the Governor, who believed it to be his duty to point out to the Democratic voters what course they should pursue in the selection of Assembly candidates.

After speeches by ex-Assemblyman John J. Treacy of Jersey City and Assistant Corporation Counsel Dudley Field Malone of New York the Governor arose and got an enthusiastic Wilsonian send-off.

"I came here in response to what I believe to be a solemn obligation," he said. "I made many promises during the last campaign, none on the impulse of the moment, but always with deliberation. I promised that if you honored me with your votes and made me Governor I'd come back and tell you not only what I had done but what my associates had done. It is not pleasant to discriminate, but I shall speak with candor. Justice is not a sentimental thing. It does not discriminate between friend and enemy. Justice speaks of facts as they are."

Just there were many obligations contracted in the last campaign and at the last session of the Legislature. It is true that neither the people of the United States nor of New Jersey are inclined to let any political obligation be taken lightly in the future. We are done with deceit. We are done with treachery. No man who didn't stand by the leader of his party in carrying out its pledges can explain away his conduct."

Gov. Wilson read the names of ten of the twelve Hudson county Assembliesmen whose names appear on the Democratic primary ticket within brackets as candidates of the regular organization, and said every one of these men but one did what he was expected to do. The exception was Thomas Martin.

"I have something to say about Mr. Martin," he continued. "He never made any pretences. He always stated in out of my presence what he thought and what he was going to do. After he had voted against Senator Martine and had opposed the main provisions of the Teran bill he seemed to have discharged his duty. He was not a man to let around and aided and supported most of the beneficent legislation. He supported the Walsh act for commission government."

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